



Nancy Gardner

Councilwoman



Newsletter: May 2009

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

City Hall

General Information

644-3309

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Emergency Services

Emergency	9-1-1
Fire Dept	633-3104
Police Dept	644-3717

Libraries

CdM	644-3075
Main	717-3800
Mariners	717-3838
Balboa	644-3076

Oasis Senior Center

644-3244

Post Office

CdM	673-2989
Main	640-4663

COUNCILWOMAN

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SIDEWALK REPAIRS

I got an email from someone wondering why the City was going to the expense of replacing the perfectly good sidewalk in front of his house. Here's the answer: It wasn't perfect, not to the eye of an attorney specializing in personal injuries. It seems that 3/4" is the magic number that turns a safe sidewalk into an outrageous public hazard, so any time something starts to hover in the 1/2" range, General Services goes out, grinds the lip and fills in the perilous gap. After a period, the repair falters, and then it is necessary to replace the offending area so that we can walk and talk without stumbling.

WATER WATER

The City will be looking at a new water ordinance shortly, and it is much stricter than what we have been used to. The Metropolitan Water District and State Water Resources Board are requiring cities to stiffen their water regulations if they wish to get their allotted share of water. Hosing off driveways, ignoring broken sprinklers and other leaks, sprinkling while it is raining and other water-wasting practices will bring an admonition, and if they continue, a fine. The peculiar thing is that this specific ordinance will not apply to those neighborhoods in Newport where water is provided by an agency other than the city. However, those areas do come under other runoff requirements which should result in many of the same restrictions.

SPREADING THE WORD

As we all know, our bay and ocean are impacted by activities that take place way beyond our city's boundary. People in Tustin, Anaheim, Corona have no idea that what they're doing at home can affect the beaches they visit, and educating them has been an ongoing challenge. Now MiOcean has approached the City with a proposal that could help. It's a TV-sized screen that would cycle relevant beach information in a static format--no sound and no moving images to be disruptive. It would be displayed in an area like the food/concession stand at Big Corona so people could read it while they're waiting. Council will be presented with the idea for consideration at a future meeting.

OC MARATHON

Everyone in the impact zone should have received notice of the various street closures. Here's additional information. For those who live on streets that will be no-parking for the duration of the race and who have more cars than garage space, alternate parking is being offered at Big Corona, Sherman Gardens, Newport Beach Yacht Club, Five Crowns, Honey Baked Ham, and 3800 and 3801 PCH. A special thanks to the businesses who have offered their lots.

BANNING RANCH

For those of you who have not had an opportunity to listen to both sides of the Banning Ranch issue, the Newport Beach chapter of Surfrider Foundation will be hosting a panel with the Banning Ranch Conservancy telling how the area can be saved for open space and the Banning Ranch owners explaining the benefits of their plan to develop. Wednesday, May 20, 5:30pm-6:45pm at the Environmental Nature Center.

NEW TECH

HFCV (Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles, for the non-cognoscenti) have come to Newport Beach, or at least they're on their way. At this point they're too expensive to sell, so they are leased, and at least one person in Newport has one, a Honda Clarity. Newport, Santa Monica, Irvine and Torrance are all targeted for an initial wave of hydrogen fueling stations, with one proposed as part of the Shell station at the corner of San Joaquin Hills Road and Jamboree. Dave Kiff and I went for a ride in an HFCV, a Mercedes, although I don't think anyone would recognize it as such. The car has a quiet hum and plenty of pick up, and once it gets into the realm of having a sales price will provide another alternative to gasoline-powered engines.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

This is a two-way process; please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas and opinions.